

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the present amendment and remarks is respectfully requested. In the present response:

- (i) claims 1-3, 8-9, 13-17, and 20 have been canceled;
- (ii) claims 4, 10, and 18 have been amended; and
- (iii) new claim 21 has been added.

Claims 4-7, 10-12, 18-19, and 21 remain pending in this application.

Substantive matters

(1) Claims 1, 2, and 14 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Gross et al. (U.S. Patent 7,130,275). The rejection of claims 1, 2, and 14 is moot in view of Applicant's present cancellation of those claims.

(2) Claims 1-3, 8-9, 13-17, and 20 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Tetreault et al. (U.S. Patent 5,555,372). The rejection of claims 1-3, 8-9, 13-17, and 20 is moot in view of Applicant's present cancellation of those claims.

(3) Claims 4-7, 10-12, and 18-19 have been indicated as having allowable subject matter. More specifically, Examiner has indicated that claims 4-7, 10-12, and 18-19 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim(s), but that each of those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their respective base claim and any intervening claims. In response:

(a) Claim 4 has been recast in independent form to include all limitations of claims 1 and 3. Accordingly, claim 4 is now in a condition for allowance.

(b) Claims 5-7 have not been amended, as those claims are directly dependent upon claim 4 which, as presently amended, is in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, claims 5-7 are likewise in a condition for allowance.

(c) Claim 10 has been recast in independent form to include all limitations of claim 8. Accordingly, claim 10 is now in a condition for allowance.

(d) Claims 11-12 have not been amended, as those claims are directly dependent upon claim 10 which, as presently amended, is in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, claims 11-12 are likewise in a condition for allowance.

(e) Claim 18 has been recast in independent form to include all limitations of claims 14 and 17. Accordingly, claim 18 is now in a condition for allowance.

(f) Claim 19 has not been amended, as that claims is directly dependent upon claim 18 which, as presently amended, is in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, claim 19 is likewise in a condition for allowance.

(g) New claim 21 is directed to the subject matter that was recited in claim 15 (which has been presently canceled), but in dependence upon claim 18 (which, as presently amended, is in a condition for allowance). Accordingly, new claim 21 is likewise in a condition for allowance.

In summary, claims 4, 5-7, 10-12, 18-19, and 21 are now believed to be in a condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, passing of this case is now in order. Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's agent by telephone if such communication may be helpful in the further examination of this case. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,
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